

How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



P.O. Box 5002
Tempe, AZ 85280
480-350-2678
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Environmentally Friendly Discharges from Spas, Pools & Fountains

Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline
480-350-2811

Environmentally Friendly Discharges from Spas, Pools, & Fountains

Do you own, operate or maintain a spa, pool, or fountain?

If so, you should be aware of guidelines to be followed in maintaining and draining any swimming pool. Despite the fact that we immerse ourselves in it, the water from pools and spas is far from chemically clean. Chlorine, nutrients, pH, and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a severe negative impact on the plant and aquatic life in our lakes.

Residential Pool Drainage Permits Are No Longer Needed

Tempe City Code was amended to allow residential swimming pools with a volume of less than 35,000 gallons, to be drained under specified conditions, without the need to apply for a pool drainage permit.

The order of preference for the discharge is as follows:

1. **It is highly recommended that all discharge water be kept on your property** and used for landscape irrigation. This may require discharging intermittently for several days if you have limited landscape area to prevent runoff onto the right-of-way or onto a neighbor's property.
2. Discharge of drainage from pools to residential cleanout is allowed if the flow is constantly monitored and **no chlorine has been added to the pool for at least three (3) days before discharge**, and the owner is liable for any sewer backup or damage to their private system as a result of discharging pool water to the sewer cleanout on their property.



3. Pool drainage water may be discharged to the right-of-way or street (discharge to alleys is prohibited) when correctly de-chlorinated and pollutant free, discharged using a pump sized no more than 1.5 horsepower and drainage is monitored to ensure it does not create flooding or damage, create a traffic hazard or otherwise constitute a nuisance under §21-3(B)(18) of the City of Tempe Code. Maintenance backwash water can only be discharged to owner property.

If water is to be drained from any size commercial swimming pool or residential pools of more than thirty five thousand (35,000) gallons, the water must either be discharged upon the owner's property or to the sanitary sewer system only if a permit is issued for the discharge by the Public Works Department under §27-10(B)(12) and §27-10(c)(1) of the City of Tempe Code. Contact Environmental Compliance Inspectors at (480)350-2678.

The discharge of pool water into the public right-of-way which causes flooding, impedes vehicular or pedestrian traffic, creates a hazardous condition for such traffic, or causes damage to the public streets or alleys is subject to enforcement by the Community Development Department.

Even at extremely low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life. Water pollution can also affect our drinking water supply.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

